

## "Billiard Palace to Open Tonight"

M. and N. Bar the Most Richly Furnished Establishment of the Kind in Canada

*From the Yukon Sun, September 9, 1903, Dawson, Yukon.*

Submitted by Ronald Greene



When the M. and N. saloon, at the corner of First avenue and King street, is thrown open for the first time this evening Messrs. Joe McDonald and M. Nelson will have the right to be proud caterers to the public. They have without doubt the finest appointed and most richly furnished saloon and billiard hall on the Pacific coast. In fact, it is not ex-



aggerating to say that it is doubtful if any other resort in Canada is more expensively furnished. Their enterprise in bringing such furniture into the country is to be commended from every standpoint.

The bar is constructed of solid carved mahogany, on the Doric plan, though the severe lines are broken enough to add grace. Between the pillars are large, deep-set French plate mirrors. Only filtered water is to be used in the place, a modern automatic filter being provided on the front bar. The bar and bar fixtures were manufactured in Chicago.

The bar room is provided with ice chest of white tiling, containing several compartments, a mahogany liquor case, a mahogany bar screen and a plate glass cigar case. Before the window are alcoves. The walls and ceiling are done in stucco plastic work, the decorations being handpainted. The room is lighted by a massive electroleer in the center, opal globes being supported by bronze statuettes behind the bar.

The billiard and pool hall is connected with a large arch. The room contains six Pfeister tables - four pool, one billiard and one English billiard. The last alone cost \$600 and weighs 2,400 pounds. The hall is lighted with four 1,000-candle power Welbach arc lights. There are private cue racks, plenty of

**Sweldest of the Swell!**

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**THE**

**M. AND N.**

**BAR AND BILLIARD HALL**

The Most Elaborately Furnished Establishment in the North.

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The Finest Fixtures, Best Billiard and Pool Tables that Money  
Can Buy.

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The Only English Billiard Table in the Yukon.

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GOOD LIQUORS      GOOD CIGARS      GOOD SERVICE

**McDONALD & NELSON, Props.**

(continued on page 49)

# EDITORIAL

Our thanks to Ron Greene for sending in the article about the M&N Billiard Hall. Contemporary reports such as this give so much insight into the tokens, and make the collecting of them much more meaningful. Article such as this are always interesting, so if you come across any, please keep us in mind.

There have been some items of interest on eBay lately, and these are reported in the Prices Realized column. Alaska National Bank Notes continue to soar, as evidenced by the notes recently sold.

Accompanying this issue are the Alaskan lots from our auction to be held in Fairbanks November 16. There are not as many Alaska items as usual, but there are a couple worth of note. A rare token from Dyea makes its first appearance in our auctions, as does a scrip note from Nome. These are sure to excite serious bidders. You may phone, email or mail your bids.

The big news at ARC is that our stocks and bonds book is nearly ready to go to the printer. Your editor has been working on this since 1985. It has been an excellent exercise in procrastination. We will keep you posted on the progress, and let you know when you can order!

It is that time of year again when I make my annual religious pilgrimage to Phoenix. We are playing in the over 40 (well, over 38 really) bracket this year. It was nice of the rest of the team to age sufficiently so that I could play in this bracket before (just barely) I was 50. Before Phoenix, I will spend some time with my mother in Massachusetts, so I will be out of the store from Oct. 19 to Nov.

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# PRICES REALIZED



Another specimen of the "Yukon Cigar" token popped up on eBay recently. **PR - \$88.00.**

## R.M. Smythe, July 29, 2002:

Lot 1597: First National Bank of Fairbanks, \$5, 1902 Red Seal, Choice Uncirculated **PR - \$16,775.**

Lot 1598: First National Bank of Ketchikan, \$5, 1929, Fine to Very Fine. **PR - \$10,175.**

Submitted by Lee Poleske

## Also from eBay:

Circle, B-1a, Collins & Strait, 10¢ - 197.21  
Juneau, B-12d, Burford's Corner, \$1 - \$234.12  
Kodiak, B-8a, Masonic Penny - \$305.00  
LaTouche, B-2a, Little, 12½¢ - \$181.00  
Douglas, B-35a, Roswog 6¼¢ - \$465.00  
Whitehorse, J.R. Alguire 25¢ - \$51.00  
Valdez, B-2a, Blackwell/Rowdy - \$75.00

## INTERESTING AYPE!

Below is an Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition medal in its original holder, the first we have seen. The image was not of high enough quality to enlarge so that it could be read. It reads: "This is to certify that the Medal enclosed in this envelope is the Official Commemorative Medal of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition manufactured by the United States Mint at the Government Building, Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition Grounds, Seattle, Washington, 1909." The rest is unreadable in the scan.



# M & N BILLIARD HALL, CONT.

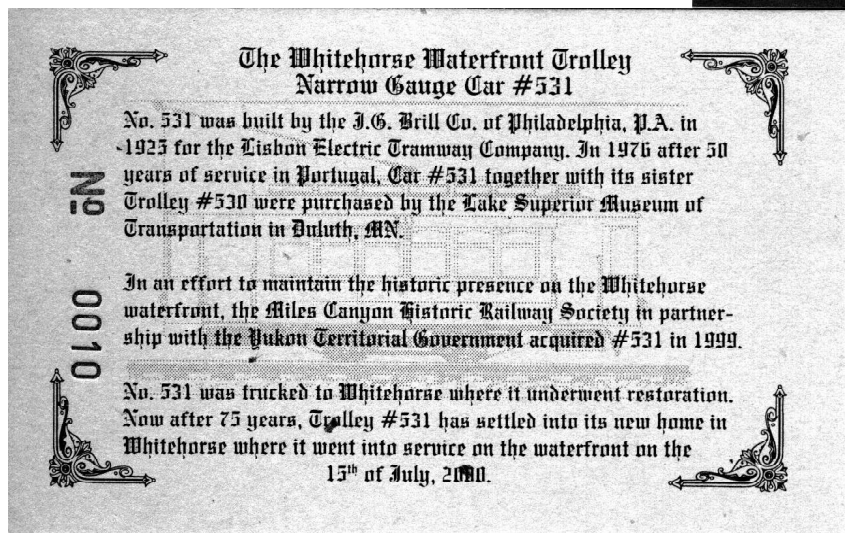
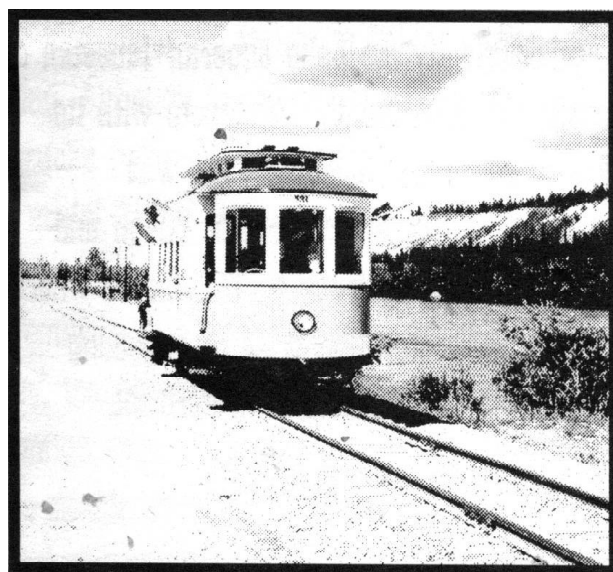
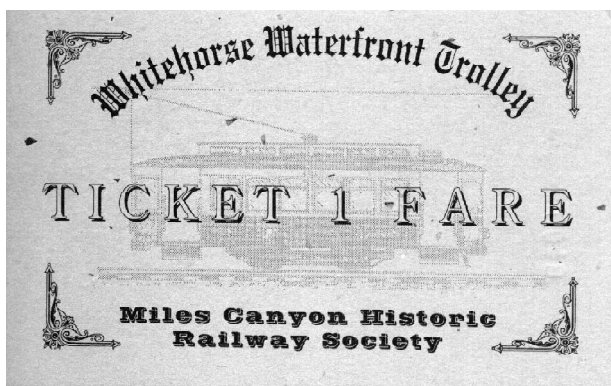
comfortable chairs, washstands of crockery, with hot and cold water and many other conveniences. The stock is large and contains many new brands of the highest grade American liquors and cigars. They were bought by Nelson on his last trip outside. Mr. Reichert, of Cincinnati, specially recommended as an expert in keeping billiard and pool tables in order, was employed by Mr. Nelson and accompanied him inside.

\* \* \* \* \*

The M. & N. was still in business when the 1907-1908 Alaska Yukon Directory was published, but had vanished by the time the 1911-1912 issue was compiled. The tokens are also known with the initials scratched off indicating that possibly the business was sold and the new owner modified the tokens on hand.

-Ronald Greene

# WHITEHORSE WATERFRONT TROLLEY



Above left: front of ticket, reduced.

Above: Trolley

Left: Reverse of ticket with historical description, shown actual size.

Black on brown, with red serial number, 111mm by 69mm.

Submitted by Dave Gyles



# ALASKA MINT 2001 MINTAGES

Mintages for the 2001 Official State medals.

**SILVER:**

1 oz. Proof	7213
1 oz. Matte	908
½ oz.	957
¼ oz.	1132
1/10 oz.	1224
1/20 oz.	881
2 oz.	204

**GOLD:**

1 oz.	151
½ oz.	73
1/10 oz.	160
1/20 oz.	95
3 oz.	19

## PAPER POTPOURRI



(NOME): American Legion Frontier Night. Green with red overprint on the front, orange with red overprint on the back, 175mm by 77mm. From an estate from Nome, but not positively attributed. This is lot #267 in the auction included with this issue.



# FOR THE RECORD



**ANCHORAGE:** Tundra Steak Camp, 25¢ in trade. Aluminum, 22mm (Kaye Dethridge).



**BIG LAKE:** Klondike Inn, Good for one shot of Red Eye. Brass, 32mm (Kaye Dethridge).



**PETERSBURG:** Centennial, 1998. One ounce pure silver. Minted by the Alaska Mint (eBay).



**FAIRBANKS:** Mecca Bar, Good for one drink. White on red plastic, 38mm.



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**FAIRBANKS:** Pioneers of Alaska 2002 Convention, Fairbanks on the Chena, 100 years. One ounce silver, minted by the Evergreen Mint, Anchorage.



**FAIRBANKS:** Hey Earl! 2002 Par Three Classic, Fairbanks Golf and Country Club, one ounce silver minted at the Evergreen Mint, Anchorage. The tournament was named for Earl Weaver, who designed the current FG&CC course.



**JUNEAU:** Sticker coin. Baronof Bar. Described by the submitter: "It is a VF-EF detail 1894-S Barber Half Dollar (a significant coin in itself) thoroughly dark and rusty with a handwritten-in-ink old faded green label on the coins obverse stating Baronof (sic)/Bar/Juneau, over which is a piece of old yellowed, brittle clear tape. The green paper is not only faded but stained through by the coin's rust. (submitted by Alan Weinberg).

**From eBay,** text as follows: This is lovely and difficult to find Czechoslovak scout token with this Czech description: "MERENDA DUBICKO /// TERRITORY KLONDIKE ALASKA \* 1987" (rag in Dubice), it was stamp for a scout village like a recession. The lovely token was mint of aluminum - it is interesting proved probably solder together from two pieces (?), diameter 30 mm (1.17 inch), it is in excellent condition, how you can see on the enlarge picture.

# ALASKA RARE COINS

P.O. BOX 72832 - 551B SECOND AVE.  
99707 FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701  
(907) 452-6461

e-mail: akcoins@mosquitonet.com

**AUCTION:** TO BE HELD AT 7:00 P.M., November 16<sup>th</sup> IN FAIRBANKS. These are just the Alaskan items. If you want a complete listing, please call or write to the address above. Phone bids may be called in between 10:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., Monday to Saturday (noon on the day of the auction). Bids will also be accepted at the e-mail address above.

## ALASKANA

## ESTIMATE

- |     |   |        |
|-----|---|--------|
| 256 | <b>Alaska Token: Chatanika</b> , Bingle Fritz, (Welch), 25¢ in trade, B-1a. VG, but "Bingle Fritz" is totally worn off the aluminum center. Denomination is readable.   | 75.00  |
| 257 | <b>Alaska Token: Chatanika</b> Bingle Fritz, (Welch), 50¢ in trade, B-1b, VF or better. Very popular bi-metal.  | 100.00 |
| 258 | <b>Alaska Tokens: Chatanika</b> , N.G. Cox, Dempsey Hotel, 25¢ and \$1 in trade, B-3a and c. These are dug tokens, but fully legible.   | 50.00  |
| 259 | <b>Alaska Tokens: (Cleary)</b> , two very scarce, dug tokens. The first is "Fritz" with no denomination, B-1a. Second is "Eddie Willis, Good in Trade", B-6a. These are very corroded, but legends are readable. These two entrepreneurs joined forces to create "Willis & Welch" major merchants in Chatanika and Cleary approximately 1907 to 1914. | 50.00  |



- |     |  |               |
|-----|--|---------------|
| 260 | <b>Alaska Token: Dyea</b> , H&W, 12½¢ in merchandise, B-1a, VF with light corrosion. Tokens from Dyea are very scarce. This is the first example of this token we have seen.   | 400.00+       |
| 261 | <b>Alaska Token: Fairbanks</b> , Fairview Hotel, 25¢ in trade, B-19b, dug, but fully legible. Please note that the catalogue lists this token at \$100, but we feel this is an error. A 12½¢ token is also listed, and we have not seen this token. We feel our estimate is more reasonable than the catalogue value.  | 25.00         |
| 262 | <b>Alaska Token: Valdez</b> , The Fairbanks, Geo. Krau, 12½¢ in trade, B-6b, VF. Neat half dollar size brass token with a triangle cut out. Quite scarce.  | 200.00        |
| 263 | <b>Alaska Token: Wacker</b> , Wacker Stage Line, good for 25 cent fare, with 25 crossed out and 10 hand written, B-T2aII. Heavy creases. This is the token that was used in "Alaska Tokens" by Ron Benice (the "plate" token).   | 75.00+        |
| 264 | <b>Alaska Chit:</b> Alaska Gastineau Mining Company, B-C2b. Hexagonal, VF  | 20.00         |
| 265 | <b>Alaska Chit:</b> Copper River & Northwestern Railway, B-C5a. VF with a slight bend at the top.  | 40.00         |
| 266 | <b>Alaska Chit:</b> Kennecott Copper Corporation, B-C7a, VF.   | 20.00         |
| 267 | <b>Alaska Scrip: (Nome)</b> , American Legion Frontier Night, \$100. Probably for a Monte Carlo type of activity. Presumably from Nome as it came from a Nome estate. The front of the note is green, with denomination and legend overprinted in red. Vignette of a dog team in the center, flanked by an Eskimo's face to the left and a reindeer to the right. The back is orange with the denomination in red. The note is XF, but for a fine cut going half way into the note to the Eskimo's nose. When flat, it is hardly visible. We believe this is the first example that we have seen. Illustrated on page 50 of this month's newsletter. | 300.00-400.00 |
| 268 | <b>Alaska (almost) Encased Cent:</b> Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition, with AU 1909 Indian Cent. This is the famous (or is that infamous) encased cent in the shape of a chamber pot and the legend "Go way back and sit down, a pot full of money, keep me and never be caught short." Very nice AU with little wear. Very popular.  | 90.00+        |

- 269 **Alaska Encased Cents:** Two encased cents for Anita Garnick. 1) horseshoe shape, “for Representative” with 1946 cent. Overall VF, but the cent is loose. 2) round shape, “for Senator” with 1947 cent. Cent and encasement are AU. A nice pair. 45.00
- 270 **Coal Dollar:** A 1921 Morgan Dollar with paper sticker “This is a Coal Dollar”. The dollar is VF or better, the sticker is placed near the edge of the coin, so part is missing, but the only part of the lettering that is not complete is the “A” (half missing at the edge of the coin). Very popular. 50.00
- 271 **Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition Medal:** Advertising medal for The Lotus, 305 Pike St. (Seattle) with the AYPE logo as the reverse, 1909. AU with much luster. One of the few advertising medals from this exposition. 30.00
- 272 **Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition Medal:** “Souvenir Alaska-Yukon Pacific-Exposition Seattle, Wash., 1909. The Progressive Makers, Seattle Wash. Pat. Applied For.” The obverse has a miner in the lower center, with Chief Seattle upper left and Seward upper right. Attractive with a silver finish. EF, with a loop for suspension. 30.00
- 273 **Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition Medal:** U.S. Government Building on the reverse, logo of the Exposition on the obverse. Hibler-Kappen #367, brass, AU with most luster remaining. 25.00
- 274 **Official 1 oz. State Medal,** 1989, Proof? We have compared this to the so-called P/L die and it is different. It was difficult to tell them apart in this first year. The obverse has the polar bear design by Doug Lindstrand. 1,700 were minted. Currently listing at \$225. 100.00-200.00
- 275 **Complete Collection of Official ½ Ounce State Medals.** This would be a very difficult collection to try and put together. The 1989 to 1991 medals were minted by Alaska Precious Metals, now bankrupt and the years 1995 to 2002 were minted at the Alaska Mint. None were made from 1992 to 1994. Each year is a different animal design on the obverse. The mintages of these has never been very high, with 1989 being the most plentiful (1,932) and 1991 the scarcest with an estimate of only about 200. These are much rarer than the one ounce versions. Again, a difficult set to try and assemble, and one of the few we know of. Eleven pieces. 220.00+
- 276 **Official 1/10 oz. Gold State Medal Collection.** Considering the mintages and the amount of time that has passed, this is a very difficult set to accumulate. Listed here are the medals from 1989 to 1999, missing only the 1992 (none were issued in 1991). The set includes the following with mintages in brackets: 1989 Eskimo (217); 1990 Puffins (120); 1993 Wolf (298); 1994 Bear (500); 1995 Puffins (625); 1996 Caribou (497); 1997 Musk Ox (270); 1998 Moose (331) and 1999 Dall Sheep (239). A rare opportunity to tackle this collection in one shot. The 1990 is the lowest mintage with the missing 1992 the second lowest. All are in their original cases with the exception of 1993. The 1989 and 1990 were issued with just a flip with a card. Nine pieces total. 1,000.00-1,500.00
- 277 **Official 1 oz. State Medal,** 1997, in the original case. The Musk Ox was on the obverse in 1997 and 6,800 were minted. Currently listed by the Alaska Mint at... 175.00
- 278 **Alaska Medal:** Vitus Bering “Friendship Dollar”, 1991. One ounce silver medal issued by the Alaska Geographic Society. The obverse has a very nice map of eastern Russia and Alaska. The reverse depicts a ship at Cape St. Elias, commemorating Bering’s landing at Kayak Island, 1741. A very limited issue, sold for \$49, or \$25 with the purchase of a membership in AGS. This is accompanied by a letter from Robert Henning, President of the Alaska Geographic Society to Cecilia Hunter. Still in original packaging. 100.00+
- 279 **Alaska Medal:** Alaska Highway, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1992, by the Alaska Mint. The Alaska Mint has shown a retail price as high as \$150 on this medal. More realistically, we estimate it at... 50.00
- 280 **Dawson, Yukon:** International Order of Odd Fellows building bond for \$10. This bond was issued to raise money to build the Odd Fellows hall in Dawson in 1908. Projected life of the bond was one year, and it paid 6% interest. A nice piece of Yukon financial history. 20.00+
- 281 **MarkAir “Arctic Circle” Certificates.** A fun collectible from another defunct airline. These pretty color certificates were handed out to anyone who flew over the Arctic Circle. They have a great graphic of the aurora and a dog team, and are “signed” (imprinted) by Neil Bergt. On rare occasions, we see the Wien certificates which are a great collector’s item. 4 certificates. 20.00+
- 297 **Gold Nugget Bracelet.** Eight nuggets connected by jump rings with 14Kt box clasp. The jump rings show no wear. The two ends are also connected by a safety chain. Very nicely done, but the bracelet is only 6¼ inches long, which is a bit short for most wrists. There are, of course, easy remedies for this. Over 7 DWT total weight. 400.00+
- 298 **Gent’s Watchband.** Sterling silver ends with turquoise set on a wolf and leaf design with a Speidel expansion. Typical southwestern art work. Appears to be new. 40.00
- 299 **Gold Nugget,** approximately 1.1 Troy ounces. This large nugget is very porous with natural matrix. Set up as pendant with a jump ring, but it really is not pretty enough. It is more of a great specimen piece than a jewelry item. 400.00-600.00